

# Fire and Life Safety Bulletin

October 2010

804-646-6640



## Fire Prevention Week is October 3-9, 2010

Newer smoke alarm recommendations and technologies now provide greater level of home fire protection than ever before. Unfortunately, many people still do not know about these updated recommendations, nor do they have this level of fire protection in their homes. In an effort to better educate the public about these critical home fire safety issues, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!," as the theme for Fire Prevention Week this year.

- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area.
- Never remove or disable smoke alarms
- There are two types of smoke alarm technologies—ionization and photoelectric. Each has its own advantages. Now both types of sensors are available in one smoke alarm.
- Test smoke alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- If a smoke alarm "chirps", the battery is low and needs to be replaced right away.

The Richmond Fire Department stands ready to provide you and your family with free smoke alarms, including installation. If you just need a battery or want us to check the condition of your present smoke alarm, we will provide that service for free as well. Also, we will be happy to conduct a free home safety survey....with no strings attached. We just want to ensure that your family is properly protected.

*Help us by being proactive; call the Metro Smoke Detector Hotline at 1-888-537-5967 for these services.*

### We Need Your Help Now!!!!

## The Richmond Fire Department Can Earn \$10,000 If You Vote For Us!!!!

Liberty Mutual's **Be Fire Smart Fire Safety Pledge** program will be giving away ten \$10,000 grants to fire departments across the US. The program runs until October 31. The grants will be awarded through voting on line from you....the public.

All you have to do is go to [www.BeFireSmart.com/SeanWolf](http://www.BeFireSmart.com/SeanWolf) take a simple ten question fire safety quiz and then vote.... of course for the Richmond Fire Department. The good thing is if you have multiple e-mail addresses you can vote once for each address.

Please spread the word to your friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers. Let's put Richmond, Virginia on the map! Again make sure you tell them they can vote once for each e-mail address they have.

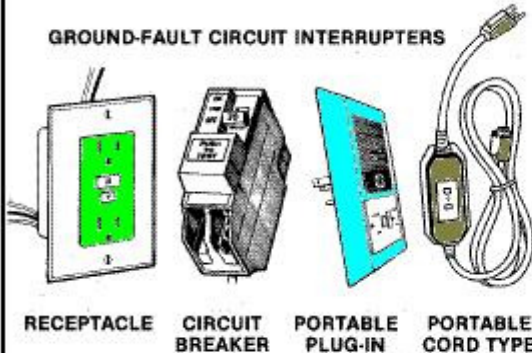
If we win, we plan to use the grant to initiate fire safety programs in our kindergartens through fourth grades and provide safety information to our seniors. Please take a minute to take the quiz and vote.



## Electrocutions

(300 electrocution deaths, thousands of electric shock injuries)

### GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS



## Ground-fault circuit-interrupters (GFCIs)

for electrical circuits can help prevent deaths and serious injuries. Portable GFCIs are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30. Receptacle GFCIs cost between \$9 and \$13, and circuit breaker GFCIs cost \$35 to \$50, not including installation. **Hair dryers with built-in shock protection** can help prevent electrocution deaths. The protected hair dryers cost about \$5 more than hair dryers without this feature.

*Keep electrical injuries from occurring in your home by following these tips.*

*Avoid tragic home injuries by following these important safety suggestions.*

## Tap water scalds

(34 deaths, 3,800 burn injuries)

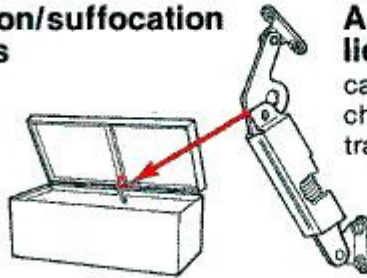


## Anti-scald devices

range in price from \$15 to \$75, not including installation. Anti-scald devices can keep water temperature below 120 degrees Fahrenheit to help prevent scald burns.

## Strangulation/suffocation with chests used to store toys

(3 deaths, several injuries)



## A spring-loaded lid-support device

can keep a lid from falling on a child's neck or from closing and trapping a child playing inside the chest. This device costs about \$7.50 and should be used on all chests that store toys.

## Halloween Safety Tips

- \* Buy only costumes, wigs and props labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
- \* If wearing a mask, ensure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.
- \* Provide children with lightweight flashlights to carry for lighting and so they can be seen.
- \* Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs.
- \* It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern.
- \* If you use candles, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times.
- \* Teach children Stop, Drop and Roll if their clothes catch on fire.
- \* Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards.



## Safe Cooking Behaviors

Cooking is the number one cause of residential fires. It's a recipe for serious injury or even death to wear loose clothing, walk away from a cooking pot on the stove, or leave flammable materials, such as potholders or paper towels, around the stove. Whether you are cooking the family holiday dinner or a snack for the children, practicing safe cooking behaviors will help keep you and your family safe.

Always stay in the kitchen when cooking and do not get involved in activities that will take your attention away from your cooking. *Even good cooks should have a fire extinguisher readily available.*

